

Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-13 SY-05 SS-15 CIAE-00 INR-07

NSAE-00 PRS-01 PA-01 USIA-06 /069 W

-----311652Z 124974 /46

P R 311617Z JAN 77

FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8952

INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

USMISSION USUN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMCONSUL KADUNA

AMCONSUL IBADAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L LAGOS 1087

KADUNA PASS BPAO KANO

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, OVIP, TZ, NI, US

SUBJECT: AMBASSADOR YOUNG'S VISIT TO NIGERIA

1. I DISCUSSED ARRANGEMENTS FOR AMBASSADOR YOUNG'S VISIT TO NIGERIA WITH EXTAFF COMMISSIONER GARBA THIS MORNING.

2. GARBA SAID HE WOULD BE LEAVING LAGOS FOR KANO ACD KADUNA ON FEBRUARY 6. OBASANJO AND VISITING VIPS WOULD LEAVE LAGOS FOR KADUNA THE MORNING OF FEBRUARY 7. I TOLD GARBA THAT AMBASSADOR YOUNG AND HIS PARTY AND I WOULD BE FLYING TO KADUNA IN A CHARTER AIRCRAFT LEAVING LAGOS AT DAWN FEBRUARY 8. GARBA WAS UNABLE TO PROVIDE ANY DETAILS REGARDING SCHEDULED EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES IN KADUNA. HE SAID SOME HEADS OF STATE WOULD BE FLYING DIRECTLY INTO KADUNA AND

LEAVING FOR HOME OR ELSEWHERE FROM THERE. THERE MIGHT WELL BE A VIP DINNER IN KADUNA FEBRUARY 8 TO WHICH AMBASSADOR YOUNG WOULD BE INVITED.

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3. WHILE ASSURING ME THAT THE FMG WOULD WISH AMBASSADOR YOUNG AND ME TO RETURN TO LAGOS FROM KADUNA IN THE SAME AIRCRAFT WITH THE HEAD OF STATE AND OTHER DIGNITARIES FEBRUARY 9, GARBA WAS UNABLE TO PREDICT HOW MANY OTHERS OF AMBASSADOR YOUNG'S PARTY MIGHT BE ABLE TO RETURN TO LAGOS WITH THE HEAD OF STATE'S PARTY. HE SAID IT DEPENDED ON WHICH AIRPLANE(S) THE FMG WOULD HAVE AVAILABLE

AND ON HOW MANY VISITING HEADS OF STATE WOULD ALSO BE ABOARD. I TOLD GARBA WE WERE DISCUSSING WITH OTHERS IN HIS MINISTRY THE ARRANGEMENTS FORMMHE TWO ARMED SY ASCORTS. I WONDERED WHETHER THEY COULD BE ACCOMMODATED ON THE KADUNA-LAGOS FLIGHT. GARBA REPLIED THAT SUCH DETAILS WOULD HAVE TO BE WORKED OUT LATER WHEN MORE INFORMATION WAS AVAILABLE ON PLANS OF VISITING VIPS.

4. GARBA WAS UNABLE TO CONFIRM OR DENY DURBAR ATTENDANCE BY BENTI, SENGHOR, AMIN OR QUADHAFI. HE CONFIRMED HOWEVER THAT BOTH MOBUTU AND NETO WERE EXPECTED. (ZAIRE AMBASSADOR SAYS ONLY CHANCE FOR MOBUTU AND YOUNG GET TOGETHER WOULD BE IN KADUNA.)

5. COMMENT: PRECISE SCHEDULING OF ACTIVITIES DURING AMBASSADOR YOUNG'S VISIT WILL NECESSARILY BE VERY MUCH OF LAST MINUTE AFFAIR. WE ARE TENTATIVELY PLANNING A LARGE RECEPTION AT RESIDENCE FOR EVENING FEBRUARY 9 WHERE WE WOULD EXPECT BE JOINED BY AMERICAN FESTAC PARTICIPANTS INCLUDING HEADLINERS AS WELL AS KEY MEMBERS OF AMERICAN COMMUNITY, DIPLOMATIC CORPS, AND NIGERIAN FRIENDS AND CONTACTS. GARBA SAID FEBRUARY 10 WOULD "PROBABLY" BE BEST DATE FOR OBASANJO-YOUNG CONVERSATION. EASUM

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